

February 14, 2025

Re: **Support of HB534** - Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact (AADB Bill)

Dear Esteemed Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Distinguished Members of the House, Health and Government Operations Committee,

As a concerned Registered Dental Hygienist, Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners Member, and constituent, I am writing to you today regarding an issue of public safety in our state. HB534, also known as the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact (AADB Bill) supports workforce stability by maintaining high standards while facilitating mobility for qualified professionals, and addressing shortages without compromising quality of care.

I support HB534 because:

- By requiring hand skills examinations and accredited education, the AADB Compact maintains very high standards to protect public safety.
- With clear, uniform standards, the AADB Compact enhances regulatory consistency across member states while respecting Maryland laws.
- The AADB Compact improves access to dental care for constituents by allowing qualified professionals to practice across state lines more easily.

I also support HB534 because:

- It considers split dental hygiene and dental boards by allowing two (2) individuals per jurisdiction to serve on the Compact Commission. This is beneficial as dental hygiene representation is critical because without it policies and regulations could be created that do not adequately reflect the specific needs, training, and scope of practice of dental hygienists.
- States can join the AADB IDHLC Compact at no cost, promoting workforce mobility without burdening taxpayers.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to preserve our current standards for the profession of dentistry and **support HB534**.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Zeder, RDH